GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7202
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2002
DEVELOPMENT OF DRUGS
S. MURUGESAN

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some drugs have been developed by harnessing the potential of ocean;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to market those drugs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINIS OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) and (b) No Sir, no drugs have so far been developed from oceans. However, a National Project on `Drugs from Sea` initiated in 1991 with 10 participating institutes has collected and evaluated more than 4000 samples from1400 numbers of marine flora and fauna for their biological activity. Several of these samples were found to exhibit mild to strong therapeutic activities like antidiabetic, antidiarrhoeal, antihyperlipidaemic, etc from various fractions derived therefrom. The extracts from few organisms yielded the following promising leads:

- Antidiabetic
- Antidiarrhoeal
- Antihyperlipidaemic

Rodent and monkey toxicity have been completed on the first two preparations and were found safe and rodent toxicity of the third preparation has been started in July 2001. Drug is developed after completion of pre-clinical trials, which take about 8-12 years.

(c) to (e) Commercialisation and industrial marketing is done after development is completed.